a.) Amendments to Specification

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--With advances in integrated circuit, microprocessor, networking and communication technologies, ~~an~~ increasing ~~number~~ numbers of devices, in particular, digital computing devices, are being networked together. Devices are often first coupled to a local area network, such as an Ethernet based office/home network. In turn, the local area networks are interconnected together through wide area networks, such as SONET networks, ATM networks, Frame Relays, and the like. Of particular ~~notoriety~~ importance is the TCP/IP based global inter-networks, Internet.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 19, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As a result this trend of increased connectivity, ~~an~~ increasing ~~number~~ numbers, of applications that are network dependent are being deployed. Examples of these network dependent applications include but are not limited to, email, net based telephony, world wide web and various types of e-commerce. For these applications, success inherently means high volume of network traffic for their implementing servers. To ensure continuing success, quality of service through orderly and efficient handling of the large volume of network traffic has become of paramount importance. Various subject mailers, such as scalability, distributive deployment and caching of contents as well as preventing network misuse have become of great interest to the artisan.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 17, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An apparatus is equipped to receive descriptive data for network traffic. In one embodiment, the apparatus is equipped to conditionally modify timing data of the network traffic to conform the timing data to the timing patterns of previously deleted network traffic, when it is determined that the timing data of the network traffic are aberrations. Further, the apparatus is equipped with a query facility that supports a

network oriented query language. The language includes specific network oriented language elements.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 9, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring now also to Figure 2, ~~wherein~~ a flow chart illustrating the operational flow of the relevant aspects of data collector 102, in accordance with one embodiment, is shown. As illustrated, at block 202, data collector 102 receives a "reporting" of descriptive data associated with certain network traffic of interest. The descriptive data may be provided by a routing device routing network traffic, a sensor sensing or monitoring network traffic being routed, or other devices of the like. The provision may be made as part of a periodic reporting that the routing or sensor device is configured to make periodically, or the provision may be made in response to an inquiry by data collector 102, or at the direction of a "director" device directing distributed network traffic management. One example of such "director" device is described in co-pending U.S. patent applications, number 09/631,898, entitled "A Distributed Solution For Regulating Network Traffic", filed on August 4, 2000, and number 09/685,518, entitled "Progressive and Distributed Regulation of Selected Network Traffic Destined for a Network Node", filed on October 9, 2000. These applications are hereby fully incorporated by reference.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--At block 212, either upon determining that the timing data ~~is~~ are consistent or the making of the adjustment, data collector 102 saves the descriptive data into the temporal and/or persistent storage 104-106. For the embodiment, data collector 212 also converts and saves the received data in a common format to facilitate more efficient operation for subsequent query processing. Further, at block 214, data collector 214 updates the adjustment data it employs to "auto correct" the timing data, based on the timing data of the received network traffic data.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 23,and ending at page 26, line 5, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In one embodiment, as part of controlling the execution, query execution engine 114 also automatically amplifies the selected data, if the selected data ~~was~~ were collected by the reporting/monitored device on a sampling basis. For the illustrated embodiment, query execution engine 114 also analyzes the data to determine the sampling ratio, and amplifies accordingly. For example, in querying for packet count during a time period, upon determining that the packet count data ~~was~~ were collected on a "1 of 10" sampling method, query execution engine 114 automatically amplifies the packet count data by 10x. In alternate embodiments, non-corresponding, i.e. amplification that is larger or smaller than the sampling ratio, may also be supported.--